

II. Remarks

To place the complete application in condition for allowance, the claims were amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter indicated by the Examiner in the Office Action of November 3, 2005, Paper No. 10272005. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner set forth specific language in Claims 1, 7, 11, and 17 indicating that there was insufficient antecedent basis for the language used in the claims. The undersigned has carefully reviewed these claims and amended the appropriate claims to provide an antecedent basis for the language or alternatively, has amended the claim to comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Accordingly, as amended, Claims 1, 7, 11 and 17 now do indeed particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention and accordingly, formal allowance thereof is respectfully requested in view of the following.

Independent Claims 1 and 11 were amended to more clearly define the subject matter of the invention and to place all of the claims remaining the application in condition for allowance. Claims 2, 3, 12 and 13 were canceled.

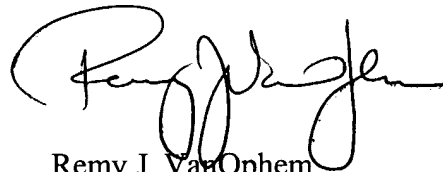
The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 2, 8, 11, 12, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over the teachings of Inaba et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,709,106 ('106). The Examiner further rejected dependent Claims 6 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the teachings of Inaba et al., '106, in view of the teachings of Shibata et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,470,704.

The Examiner further indicated that Claims 21 and 22 were allowed, and Claims 3-5, 7, 9, 10, 13-15, 17, 19 and 20 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as well as, to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Independent Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of dependent Claims 2 and 3. Independent Claim 11 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of canceled Claims 12 and 13. Accordingly, all of the claims remaining in the application do contain allowable subject matter and are in condition for allowance. Formal allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions with respect to any matter now of record, Applicant's attorney may be reached at (586) 739-7445.

Respectfully submitted,

VANOPHEM & VANOPHEM, P.C.



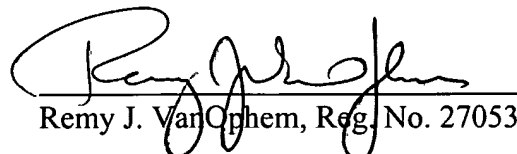
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Date: February 3, 2006



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